Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

January 27, 2025

Board Recognizes December 2024 Top DAWGS

The Board recognized the district's December "Top DAWGS" (Team of Outstanding Professionals Doing Amazing Work and Growing Stronger)! These four individuals were nominated by their peers for consistently going above and beyond to make a positive impact on their students, colleagues, and community.

- Lindsay Bowker – 2nd Grade at Frances Willard
- Gustavo Matamoros – Maintenance
- Jim McNickle – Bus Driver
- Chris VanGilder – Band Director, ACHS

ACMS Gives Special Report to Board

At the January 27, 2025, Board of Education meeting, Arkansas City Middle School (ACMS) shared current efforts to support all students and outlined a vision for the future. The presentation included updates on demographics, activities, the Hope Squad program, MTSS progress, and the ACMS Coffeehouse initiative. Principal Cody Spencer emphasized action steps to enhance student learning and address their diverse needs.

Board Receives Update from Facility and Safety Steering Committee

The Facilities and Safety Steering Committee provided a progress update on Phase I of their Master Plan. This phase includes a needs assessment, facility evaluations, employee input, and initial budgeting. Key areas of focus are safety upgrades, early childhood classrooms, IT services, general facility improvements (e.g., roofs and HVAC), and exploring the feasibility of a new middle school. Schaefer Architects presented concepts and options. The committee is working toward long-term, sustainable solutions that align with educational goals while maintaining budget responsibility.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- Charles Jennings – Head Basketball Coach at ACMS

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board accepted a cello and cello case from Breanna Heilig for ACMS, and $60 in outerwear for Roosevelt Elementary from Grandview United Methodist Church.
- The Board adopted changes to policies BDA, CC, CD, CG, CGI, CNA, DE, and DFAC.
- The Board approved the USD 470 2025-2026 calendar, as recommended by the calendar committee. Key dates include: the first day of school on August 20, the last day on May 21, and Spring Break scheduled for March 16-20.
- The Board authorized the purchase of two Ford Expeditions, an F150, and an F250 from Friendly Ford for $193,688.
- Approved and re-authorized the district's continued use of the USD 470 Forward Communicable Disease protocols adopted in August 2022.
- The Board approved adding two CTE Pathways, Media Design and Communications, and Teaching/Training, in the 2025-2026 school year.
- The Board tabled action on the ACHS Cords and Regalia plan. This plan would introduce additional cords and regalia to recognize student achievements at commencement.
- Superintendent Dr. Ron Ballard updated the Board on legislative developments, including Senate Bills 47, 48, and 49, which could impact local control over education. He also shared Kansas State Department of Education recommendations to prioritize student safety, update emergency contact information, and reinforce privacy policies regarding law enforcement interactions on school grounds.
- The Board heard a report about WAN Proposals and Internet Bids from Will Pfannenstiel and Dac Call.
- The Board discussed technology hardware, copiers, and printers.
- The Board participated in two Executive Sessions to discuss non-elected personnel.
- There was no action taken following either Executive Session.